

School of Social Work

Mary Helen Hayden, *Director*

Jennifer Abeloff, *Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director*

Richard Beaulaurier, *Associate Professor and Ph.D. Program Coordinator*

Shedrick Boren, *Clinical Assistant Professor*

Shanna Burke, *Associate Professor*

Mario De La Rosa, *Professor and Director, Center for Research on U.S. Latinos HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse*

Ivania Delgado, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

Beatrice Farnsworth, *Clinical Assistant Professor and Assistant Supervisor of Social Work, Neighborhood HELP™*

Nicole Fava, *Assistant Professor*

Andres Gil, *Professor and Vice President for Research*

Natalia Giordano, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

Victoria Gray, *Clinical Assistant Professor*

Hui Huang, *Associate Professor*

Rosa Jones, *Founding Professor and Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus*

Elise Linder, *Clinical Assistant Professor and M.S.W. Coordinator of Field Education*

Mark Macgowan, *Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work*

Lourdes Martin, *Clinical Assistant Professor and Supervisor of Social Work, Neighborhood HELP™*

Miriam Potocky, *Professor*

Amethyst St. Thomas, *Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor and B.S.S.W. Coordinator of Field Education*

Paul Stuart, *Professor Emeritus*

Barbara Thomlison, *Professor Emeritus*

Nan Van Den Bergh, *Clinical Professor Emeritus*

Eric F. Wagner, *Professor and Director, Community-Based Research Institute*

Social Work offers graduate and undergraduate studies leading to the Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Science in Social Work degrees. The School also offers a Ph.D. in Social Welfare.

The profession of Social Work requires a high degree of knowledge and dedication. The desire and ability to work effectively with people and to help solve social problems demands a scientific understanding of society and human behavior, skills in social work practice, and identification with the values of the profession.

Note: The programs, policies, requirements, and regulations listed in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to serve the needs of the University's, College's and School's regulatory and accrediting agencies. Changes may be made without advance notice. The curricula described in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to respond to the mandates of the Florida Department of Education, Board of Governors, the legislature, the Council on Education for Public Health and the Council on Social Work Education. The School makes every effort to minimize the impact of curriculum changes on currently enrolled students by stipulating that students complete the requirements of their degree program in effect at the time of admission or readmission to the program. In the event that this is not possible due to accreditation standards or the deletion of courses,

students may be required to complete alternative degree requirements in order to graduate.

Master of Social Work

Social Work offers an integrated program that leads to the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The program is designed to give the student professional education for the advanced practice of social work. The curriculum applies a bio-psychosocial model within the context of a social systems framework to understand client systems, address problems and develop interventions.

The Master of Social Work Program at Florida International University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program is grounded in the core competencies set forth by CSWE. Students are expected to meet all core competencies, including generalist and advanced clinical practice behaviors, by the end of their studies. Students are also provided grounding in basic public health knowledge.

All students will be required to acquire or to possess the core competencies in the areas of professional study considered essential in social work education: professional, behavior and ethics, diversity, and difference in practice, advancing human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice, policy practice, research, and practice including engagement, assessment, interventions, and evaluations with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The knowledge acquired in the professional courses will be applied in supervised field experiences in social service agencies. As part of field education, social work students may also participate with students from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences in the Green Family Foundation Neighborhood HELP™, an inter-professional team approach in Miami-Dade communities.

The program offers a specialization in advanced clinical practice and students complete a field practicum program that supports practice in that specialization. With the help of faculty, students will develop individualized programs in the specialization to meet their educational needs, advanced practice behaviors, and contribute to their professional objectives. The program provides a curriculum which meets the current educational requirements for clinical licensure in Florida.

Field agencies require the disclosure of conviction records for misdemeanors and/or felonies and current screening for drug use. Therefore, students are required to submit to state and federal background checks and drug screening tests prior to the initiation of the practicum. Findings in the background checks and/or drug screenings tests may affect a student's ability to participate in field internship and, thus, complete the social work program. Students are further advised that Florida and most other states may restrict or deny social work employment and/or licensure for persons with a felony conviction. **Students with a criminal background must consult with the MSW Program Coordinator before continuing in the program.**

Evening and weekend field placements are extremely limited and are granted only as an exception in extreme circumstances. **The School of Social Work is under no obligation to provide such placements. Consequently, practicum placement cannot be guaranteed even for students who require evening and weekend**

placements and all students must have at least eight (8) weekday, daytime hours available per week during their practicum experience. Students cannot complete their field placements in an agency at which they are employed.

For additional information regarding the graduate social work program of study and degree requirements, contact the School of Social Work at (305) 348-5880.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the MSW program are required to meet the minimum standards set forth by the Florida Board of Education, the University, and the School of Social Work. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better in all upper-level courses. Application procedures for admission to graduate study are found in the graduate admission section of this catalog. An application to the University, an application to the Social Work MSW program, a personal narrative, and three letters of reference are required for admission. A personal interview may be requested. All applicants are required to have completed college-level courses in biology (including coverage of Human Biology) and statistics and 12 semester hours in the social and behavioral sciences.

In addition to the College and University policies governing transfer credit the following regulations apply:

1. Courses taken in a Master of Social Work program, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, in which the applicant was fully admitted, may be transferred up to a maximum of 6 semester hours.
2. Graduate courses taken in other than CSWE accredited Social Work programs may not be transferred.
3. Required concentration courses (6000 level) are not transferable.

Advanced Standing Status

Applicants with a B.S.W. degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) within five years prior to matriculation and a minimum of 3.25 GPA (last 60 hours/upper division of undergraduate studies) **may be considered** for Advanced Standing status. Advanced Standing is **not automatically granted**. All students admitted to the MSW Program are required to take 30 semester hours of concentration courses in addition to the course in public health unless they have a BSSW/BSW from FIU or another social work program that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Students that fulfill the criteria can take an additional, 3-credit elective in the place of the public health course. Students who are admitted with Advanced Standing status will not be required to take the graduate foundation courses if they earned a 'B' or better in the corresponding course(s) at the bachelor's level. Students admitted with Advanced Standing Status will not be awarded any transfer credit, substitutions, or exemptions.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Social Work program is a 60 semester hour program composed of 30 semester hours of generalist courses followed by 30 semester hours of specialization courses in the second year. The Master of Social Work for students with Advanced Standing Status is composed of 33 semester hours of specialization courses.

An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation. Any required course in which a student receives a grade lower than 'B' must be retaken. (A grade of 'B-' is not acceptable.) However, a grade of 'B-' in an elective does not have to be retaken. A passing grade in field practicum courses is required for continuation in the program. Field courses cannot be repeated.

Students in the MSW program who fail a required social work course (a 'B-' or lower) three (3) times may not take the course again and will be automatically dismissed from the program.

A student must successfully complete all work applicable to the Master of Social Work program within 48 months from initial admission. In unusual circumstances, and if the reasons warrant it, a student may petition the School Director for an extension of the time limit.

Required Courses: (60)

Block I GENERALIST COURSES

SOW 5105	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SOW 5235	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SOW 5342	Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SOW 5379L	Interviewing Skills Lab	3
SOW 5404	Social Work Research Methodology	3

Block II GENERALIST COURSES

SOW 5324	Theory and Practice with Groups	3
SOW 5629	Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations	3
SOW 5532	Field Practicum I	3
SOW 5344	Theory and Practice with Communities and Organizations	3
PHC 6500	Foundations of Public Health Practice	3

(Or SOW Social Work Clinical Practice Elective 3 if student has a BSSW/BSW from FIU or a social work program accredited by CEPH).

Block III SPECIALIZATION COURSES

SOW 6125	Human Behavior & the Social Environment II – Psychopathology	3
SOW 6236	Social Welfare Policy and Services II	3
SOW 6435	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice	3
SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II	3
PHC 6500	Foundations of Public Health Practice	3

Block IV SPECIALIZATION COURSES

SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW	Social Work Clinical Practice Elective	3
SOW	Social Work Clinical Practice Elective	3

Students are required to complete all of the first-year Generalist Courses and be fully admitted to the MSW Program before enrolling into any of the 6000 level Specialization courses.

Master of Social Work/ Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) Degree Pathway

The MSW/MPH in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention degree pathway will be an interdisciplinary,

three-year program incorporating knowledge and skills from social work and public health with a concentration in clinical social work and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. The first year will consist of social work courses, followed by public health courses in the second year, and a combination of social work and public health courses in the final year. The required credits for the pathway would be 90 credits.

Admissions Requirements

- Students will need to apply to and be accepted into each degree pathway separately in order to qualify for the combined degree program. Students will have to meet the regular admissions criteria for each program.
- If a student is already in progress with either the MSW or MPH, the application to the other degree program will need to be submitted by the end of the 1st year of coursework. At that time, the student must notify both programs that they are interested in pursuing the combined degree pathway.

Required Courses

Year One

Fall (14 credits)

SOW 5105	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SOW 5235	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SOW 5342	Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SOW 5379L	Interviewing Skills Lab	3
SOW 5404	Social Work Methodology	3
	or	
PHC 6706	Research Methods in Public Health	3

Spring (13 credits)

SOW 5344	Theory and Practice with Communities & Orgs	3
SOW 5324	Theory and Practice with Groups	3
SOW 5532	Field Practicum I	3
SOW 5629	Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations	3

Summer (6 credits)

SOW 6125	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II Social Work Elective	3 3
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Year Two

Fall (9 credits)

PHC 6052	Biostatistics I	3
PHC 6602	Theoretical Foundations of Health Promotion	3
PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3

Spring (9 credits)

PHC 6315	Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences	3
PHC 6000	Intro to Public Health Epidemiology	3
PHC 6102	Intro to PH Health Policy & Management	3

Summer (6 credits)

	Public Health Elective	3
	Public Health Elective	3

Year Three

Fall (12 credits)

	Social Work Elective	3
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PHC 6146	Health Promotion Program Planning and Intervention Design	3
SOW 6236	Social Welfare Policy & Services II	3
SOW 6435	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice	3

Spring (9 credits)

SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II	3
PHC 6750	Program Development & Evaluation for Health Promotion	3

Summer (12 credits)

PHC 6930	Integrative Seminar in Public Health	3
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3

Substitutions:

- SOW 6533 Field Practicum II may substitute for PHC 6945 Practicum in Public Health with approval from internship coordinator in public health.
- Students may choose to take either PHC 6706 Research Methods in Public Health or SOW 5404 Social Work Research Methodology.
- Students must take two (2) electives in social work and two (2) electives in HPDP. The two (2) social work electives may substitute for the 3rd and 4th HPDP electives usually required.
- MSW/MPH students do not have to take PHC 6500 Foundations in Public Health.

Master of Social Work/ Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) with MSW Advanced Standing Status Pathway

The MSW/MPH in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention with Advanced Standing degree pathway will be an interdisciplinary, two-year accelerated pathway incorporating knowledge and skills from social work and public health with a specialization in clinical social work and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Only students who already have an undergraduate degree in social work and meet the criteria for the advanced standing MSW may apply to this accelerated pathway. Both the first and second years of the program will involve social work and public health courses

Admission Requirements:

- Students will need to apply to and be accepted into each degree program separately in order to qualify for the combined degree pathway.
- For the MSW/MPH with advanced standing, admission to both programs must occur prior to beginning any coursework. At the time of admission, the students will need to notify both programs that they are interested in pursuing the combined degree pathway with advanced standing in social work.

Required Courses:

Year One

Fall (12 credits)

SOW 6125	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
PHC 6052	Biostatistics I	3
PHC 6146	Health Promotion Program Planning and Intervention Design	3

PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3
Spring (12 credits)		
PHC 6750	Program Development & Evaluation for Health Promotion	3
PHC 6000	Intro to Public Health Epidemiology	3
PHC 6102	Intro to PH Health Policy & Management	3
SOW 6435	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice	3
Summer (9 credits)		
	Public Health Elective	3
	Public Health Elective	3
	Social Work Elective	3*
Year Two		
Fall (12 credits)		
SOW 6236	Social Welfare Policy & Services II	3
PHC 6602	Theoretical Foundations of Health Promotion	3
PHC 6315	Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences	3
PHC 6706	Research Methods in Public Health	3
Spring (9 credits)		
SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II Social Work Elective	3
Summer (12 credits)		
PHC 6930	Integrative Seminar in Public Health	3
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3

Substitutions:

- SOW 6533 Field Practicum II may substitute for PHC 6945 Practicum in Public Health with approval from internship coordinator in public health.
- Students must take two (2) electives in social work and two (2) electives in HPDP. The two (2) social work electives may substitute for the 3rd and 4th HPDP electives usually required.
- MSW/MPH students do not have to take PHC 6500 Foundations in Public Health.

MSW/MPH Program in Health Policy & Management (HPM) Degree Pathway

The MSW/MPH in Health Policy & Management degree pathway is an interdisciplinary, three-year program incorporating knowledge and skills from social work and public health with a concentration in clinical social work and Health Policy & Management. The first year will consist of social work courses, followed by mainly public health courses in the second year, and a combination of social work and public health courses in the final year. The required credits for the pathway would be 90 credits.

Admissions:

- Students will need to apply to and be accepted into each degree program separately in order to qualify for the combined degree pathway. Students will have to meet the regular admissions criteria for each program.
- If a student is already in progress with either the MSW or MPH, the application to the other degree program will need to be submitted by the end of the 1st year of coursework. At that time, the student must notify both

programs that they are interested in pursuing the combined degree pathway.

Required Courses**Year One****Fall (14 credits)**

SOW 5105	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SOW 5235	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SOW 5342	Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SOW 5379L	Interviewing Skills Lab	3
SOW 5404	Social Work Research Methodology	3

Spring (13 credits)

SOW 5344	Theory and Practice with Communities & Organizations	3
SOW 5629	Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations	3
SOW 5324	Theory and Practice with Groups	3
SOW 5532	Field Practicum I	3

Summer (6 credits)

SOW 6125	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
	Social Work Elective	3

Year Two**Fall (9 credits)**

PHC 6052	Biostatistics I	3
PHC 6000	Intro to Public Health Epidemiology	3
PHC 6102	Intro to PH Health Policy & Management (Online)	3

Spring (9 credits)

PHC 6315	Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences	3
PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3
PHC 6104C	Public Health Management and Leadership	3

Summer (9 credits)

PHC 6154C	Evidence-Based Health Policy for PH	3
	HPM Elective	3
SOW 6435	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice	3

Year Three**Fall (9 credits)**

PHC 6155C	Health Policy Analysis	3
PHC 5430C	Public Health Economics	3
	Social Work Elective	3

Spring (9 credits)

PHC 6063C	Health Policy Database Applications	3
SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II	3

Summer (12 credits)

PHC 6930	Integrative Seminar in Public Health	3
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3

Substitutions:

- PHC 6155C Health Policy Analysis may substitute for SOW 6236 Social Welfare Policy Services II
- SOW 6533 Field Practicum II may substitute for PHC 6945 Practicum in Public Health with approval from internship coordinator in public health
- Students must take 2 electives in social work, and 1 elective in HPM. One of those social work electives will be substituted for the 2nd HPM elective usually required.
- MSW/MPH students do not have to take PHC 6500 Foundations in Public Health

MSW/MPH Program in Health Policy & Management (HPM) with Advanced Standing Status Degree Pathway

The MSW/MPH in Health Policy & Management with Advanced Standing degree pathway is an interdisciplinary, two-year accelerated pathway incorporating knowledge and skills from social work and public health with a concentration in clinical social work and Health Policy & Management. Only students who already have an undergraduate degree in social work and meet the criteria for the advanced standing MSW may apply to this accelerated pathway. Both the first and second years of the program will involve social work and public health courses.

The required credits for the pathway would be 63 credits.

Admissions

- Students will need to apply to and be accepted into each degree program separately in order to qualify for the combined degree pathway.
- For the MSW/MPH with advanced standing, admission to both programs must occur prior to beginning any coursework. At the time of admission, the students must notify both programs that they are interested in pursuing the combined degree with advanced standing in social work pathway.

Required Courses

Year One

Fall (9 credits)

PHC 6052	Biostatistics I	3
PHC 6000	Intro to Public Health Epidemiology	3
PHC 6102	Intro to PH Health Policy & Management (Online)	3

Spring (9 credits)

PHC 6315	Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences	3
PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3
PHC 6104C	Public Health Management and Leadership	3

Summer (9 credits)

PHC 6154C	Evidence-Based Health Policy for PH	3
PHC 6147C	Continuous Quality Improvement in Healthcare Organizations	3
SOW 6435	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice	3

Year Two

Fall (9 credits)

PHC 6155C	Health Policy Analysis	3
PHC 6430C	Public Health Economics	3
	Social Work Elective	3

Spring (9 credits)

PHC 6160	Public Health Budgeting and Financial Management	3
SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II	3

Summer (12 credits)

PHC 6930	Integrative Seminar in Public Health	3
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3

Substitutions:

- PHC 6155C Health Policy Analysis may substitute for SOW 6236 Social Welfare Policy Services II

- SOW 6533 Field Practicum II may substitute for PHC 6945 Practicum in Public Health with approval from internship coordinator in public health
- Students must take 2 electives in social work, and 1 elective in HPM. One of those social work electives will be substituted for the 2nd HPM elective usually required.
- MSW/MPH students do not have to take PHC 6500 Foundations in Public Health

Master of Social Work (Clinical)/Master of Public Health (Generalist)

The MSW (Clinical)/MPH (Generalist) program will be an interdisciplinary, three-year program incorporating knowledge and skills from social work and public health. The combined degree program consists of a combination of social work and public health courses.

Admissions Requirements

- Students will need to apply to and be accepted into each degree program separately in order to qualify for the combined degree program. Students will have to meet the regular admissions criteria for each program.
- If a student is already in progress with either the MSW or MPH, the application to the other degree program will need to be submitted by the end of the 1st year of coursework. At that time, the student must notify both programs that they are interested in pursuing the combined degree.

Required Courses

The required credits for the program is 87 credits.

Year One

Fall (15 credits)

SOW 5105	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SOW 5235	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SOW 5404	Social Work Methodology	3
PHC 6000	Intro to Public Health Epidemiology	3
PHC 6102	Intro to PH Health Policy & Management	3

Spring (12 credits)

SOW 5342	Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SOW 5379L	Interviewing Skills Lab	3
PHC 6052	Biostatistics I	3
PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3

Summer (6 credits)

PHC 6536	Health Demography	3
	Social Work Elective	3

Year Two

Fall (12 credits)

SOW 5344	Theory and Practice with Communities & Orgs	3
SOW 5629	Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations	3
PHC 6113	Community Health Promotion Planning and Research	3
PHC 6315	Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences	3

Spring (12 credits)

SOW 5324	Theory and Practice with Groups	3
SOW 5532	Field Practicum I	3
	Social Work Elective	3

PHC	Environmental Health Risk Assessment	3
Summer (6 credits)		
SOW 6125	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
PHC 6055	Data Management	3
Year Three		
Fall (6 credits)		
SOW 6435	Evidence-Based Social Work Practice	3
PHC 6155	Health Policy	3
Spring (6 credits)		
SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II	3
Summer (12 credits)		
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3
PHC 6930	Integrative Seminar in Public Health	3

Substitutions:

- SOW 6533 Field Practicum II may substitute for PHC 6945 Practicum in Public Health with approval from internship coordinator in public health.
- PHC 6155 Health Policy Analysis may substitute for SOW 6236 Social Welfare Policy Services II.
- Students must take two (2) electives in social work. These electives may substitute for the electives in the MPH Generalist.
- MSW/MPH students do not have to take PHC 6500 Foundations in Public Health.

Master of Social Work (Clinical)/Master of Public Health (Generalist) with MSW Advanced Standing Status

The MSW (Clinical)/MPH (Generalist) with Advanced Standing program will be an interdisciplinary, two-year accelerated program incorporating knowledge and skills from social work and public health. Only students who already have an undergraduate degree in social work and meet the criteria for the advanced standing MSW may apply to this accelerated program.

Both the first and second years of the program will involve social work and public health courses.

Admissions Process:

- Students will need to apply to and be accepted into each degree program separately in order to qualify for the combined degree program.
- For the MSW/MPH with advanced standing, admission to both programs must occur prior to beginning any coursework. At the time of admission, the students will need to notify both programs that they are interested in pursuing the combined degree with advanced standing in social work.

Required Courses:

The required credits for the program is 60 credits.

Year One Fall (12 credits)

SOW 6125	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
PHC 6000	Intro to Public Health Epidemiology	3

PHC 6102	Intro to Public Health Policy & Management	3
PHC 6315	Intro to Environmental Health	3
Spring (12 credits)		
SOW 6435	Evaluating Empirically Based Social Work Practice	3
PHC 6065	Public Health Statistics	3
PHC 6311	Environmental Health Risk Assessment	3
PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3
Summer (6 credits)		
	Social Work Elective	3
PHC 6536	Health Demography	3
Year Two		
Fall (12 credits)		
	Social Work Elective	3
PHC 6055	Data Management	3
PHC 6113	Community Health Promotion and Research	3
PHC 6155	Health Policy	3
Spring (6 credits)		
SOW 6425	Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
SOW 6533	Field Practicum II	3
Summer (12 credits)		
SOW 6534	Field Practicum III	6
SOW 6351	Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice	3
PHC 6930	Integrative Seminar in Public Health	3

Substitutions:

- SOW 6533 Field Practicum II may substitute for PHC 6945 Practicum in Public Health with approval from internship coordinator in public health.
- PHC 6155 Health Policy Analysis may substitute for SOW 6236 Social Welfare Policy Services II.
- Students must take two (2) electives in social work. These electives may substitute for the electives in the MPH Generalist.
- MSW/MPH students do not have to take PHC 6500 Foundations in Public Health.

Juris Doctor/Master of Social Work Joint Degree Program Pathway

1. Candidates for the pathway must meet the entrance requirements for and be accepted by both the College of Law and the School of Social Work. Both schools must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second school that the student intends to pursue the joint degree pathway.
2. The joint degree pathway is not open to students who have already earned one degree.
3. For law students, enrollment in the M.S.W. program is required no later than the completion of 63 credit hours in the J.D. program. For M.S.W. students, enrollment in the J.D. program is required no later than the completion of 30 credit hours in MSW Program.
4. A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The School of Social Work will allow 9 credit hours of approved law courses to be credited toward both the M.S.W. and J.D. degrees. These 9 credit hours of law classes will be in lieu of Social Work electives and

- must be selected from an approved list of law classes. Reciprocally, law students may receive 9 hours of credit toward the satisfaction of the J.D. degree for courses taken in the M.S.W. curriculum upon completion of the M.S.W. degree curriculum with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- A full-time law student enrolled in the joint degree pathway may spend the first year in either the College of Law or the School of Social Work. A part-time law student enrolled in the joint degree pathway may begin the student's studies in either the College of Law or the School of Social Work, but must take the first three semesters of law study consecutively. Students admitted to one school but electing to begin study in the other school under the joint degree program may enter the second school thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the second school before the end of the first week of the first semester in the second school and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the second school.
 - A student enrolled in the joint degree pathway will not receive either degree until the student has satisfied all of the requirements for both degrees, or until the student has satisfied the requirements of one of the degrees as if the student had not been a joint degree pathway candidate.

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare

The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare aims to prepare students for careers in research, university teaching, and leadership in social work and social welfare.

The Program emphasizes research that informs the development, implementation and evaluation of culturally appropriate interventions to meet the human needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities.

The Program is structured to develop and strengthen students' skills in the methods of scientific inquiry, to deepen their understanding and analysis of social problems and public issues, and to contribute to the knowledge base of social welfare. Students pursue a course of study focused on social problems, intervention research, and research methodology related to an area of specialization of particular interest to them.

The faculty mentor students on a specific area of research, its theoretical foundations and practical applications. Instruction and mentoring involve courses and seminars, supervised conduct of research, collaborative work with faculty, presentations of scientific papers, writing and publishing scholarly work, and submitting research grant proposals. While in the program, students are expected to disseminate the results of their study and research in appropriate forums. Students are also offered opportunities to teach.

Admission Requirements

Applicants are required to meet the following requirements:

- A Master's degree in Social Work from an accredited school of social work, or in a closely related field;
- Evidence of superior academic achievement in undergraduate and graduate education, including a 3.0 (upper division) undergraduate GPA and a 3.5 graduate GPA;
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores;

- Documentation of completion of courses in statistical methods and research methodology with grades of 'B' or better;
- Three letters of recommendation (two academic and one professional);
- Two examples of written scholarly work;
- A personal statement describing the applicant's research interests and career goals;
- International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or overall 6.5 on the IELTS is required;
- All applicants must be approved by the Doctoral Committee. Applications for Fall semester admission are due by February 15th of the year of application.

Degree Requirements

- Completion of a minimum of 75 credit hours earned beyond the bachelor's degree: (at least 36 credit hours of required coursework taken over the first three consecutive semesters following admission, obtaining at least a "B" grade for each course, and at least 15 dissertation credit hours following advancement to candidacy); continuous registration for at least 3 credit hours of dissertation courses during each semester following advancement to candidacy; maintenance of an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0;
- Filing, before the end of the fourth semester of study, three major papers, each having obtained a grade of at least "B+" from a three-member Doctoral Candidacy committee (this constitutes the Doctoral Candidacy Examination);
- Successful defense of a Dissertation Proposal from a duly constituted Dissertation Committee;
- Completion of a dissertation under the guidance of the Dissertation Committee;
- Successful defense of the dissertation before the Dissertation Committee and the University community;
- Obtaining the Ph.D. degree within nine years of admission into the Ph.D. program.

Program of Study

The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare is a 75 semester credit hour program comprised of at least 36 hours of required coursework and 15 semester hours of dissertation study. The balance of the hours (prior to dissertation credits) are made up of electives and/or supervised or independent research courses (i.e., SOW 6914 or SOW 7916), in consultation with the student's academic advisor. Additional semester graduate credit hours may be drawn from the student's master's degree.

Required Courses (*Designates Required Course)

Semester I (12 hours)

*SOW 7216	Social Welfare Policy	3
*SOW 7406	History & Systems of Social Work Research	3
*SOW 7492	Theory Development and Research Methods in Social Welfare	3
*PHC 6709	Quantitative Research Analysis I (or equivalent)	3

Semester II (12 hours)

*SOW 7237	Micro-Practice Theory and Research	3
*SOW 7238	Macro-Practice Theory and Research	3
*PHC 6091	Biostatistics 2 (or equivalent)	3
*AAA xxxx	Graduate Elective (or SOW 7916 Supervised Research)	3

Semester III (12 hours)

*SOW 7936	Dissertation Seminar in Social Welfare	3
*SOW 7493	Research Methods in Social Welfare II (or equivalent)	3
*AAA xxxx	Graduate Elective (or SOW 7916 Supervised Research)	3
PHC 6500	Foundations of Public Health Practice	3

Semester IV +

If Doctoral Candidacy attained:

*SOW 7980	Dissertation Credits (min 15 hours)	3
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If Doctoral Candidacy not attained:

*SOW 7916	Supervised Research	3
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or

SOW 6914	Independent Research	1
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* This course is not required for Ph.D. students who (a) have a graduate degree in Public Health, (b) a joint MSW/MPH degree, (c) who have already obtained a B or better in PHC 6500 at FIU, or (d) have taken an equivalent graduate level course at another university.

For additional and updated information about degrees offered, entrance requirements, and services, please visit our website:

<http://stempel.fiu.edu/academics/school-social-work/>